



USAF Legislative Liaison Congressional Hearing Resume

107th Congress; First Session

SUBJECT: Nomination Hearing

COMMITTEE: SASC

CHAIRMAN: The Honorable Carl Levin

DATE: 1 Aug 01

MEMBERS PRESENT (bold face):

REPUBLICANS

Strom Thurmond (SC) Jeff Sessions (AL)
John McCain (AZ) Susan Collins (ME)
Bob Smith (NH) Jim Bunning (KY)
James Inhofe (OK) **John Warner (VA)**
Rick Santorum (PA)
Pat Roberts (KS)
Wayne Allard (CO)
Tim Hutchinson (AR)

DEMOCRATS

Carl Levin (MI) Bill Nelson (FL)
Edward Kennedy (MA) **Ben Nelson (NE)**
Robert Byrd (WV) **Jean Carnahan (MO)**
Joseph Lieberman (CT) Mark Dayton (MN)
Max Cleland (GA)
Mary Landrieu (LA)
Jack Reed (RI)
Daniel Akaka (HI)

WITNESSES:

- General John P. Jumper, CSAF Nominee

Information contained in this resume was obtained during an open hearing. It will not be released outside of Department of Defense agencies until published hearing transcripts have been released by the Committee, and only to the extent it is in accord with published hearing procedures.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The committee met to consider the nominations of General Jumper for the position of Chief of Staff of the air Force. Air Force issues covered: ALCs, UAVs, BRAC, F-22, B-2, pilot retention, training, B-1s, and the age of our bombers and aircraft. All senators present expected a quick confirmation for the nominees.

The hearing was called to order at 0935.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Levin

Welcomed the distinguished nominee, his wife, and detailed Gen Jumper's background. He emphasized each member of the family is a part of the team as they begin their tenure as Service Chief.

Sen Warner

Stated that he was chairing a concurrent hearing and noted that Gen Jumper was a well-qualified nominee and looked forward to his confirmation. He praised Gen Jumper as one of a long line of distinguished VMI grads. He stated that he expects the CSAF to provide his personal professional opinion on matters even if they were at variance with the chairman of the joint staff and/or the Sec Def. He commented that he hoped that Gen Jumper would continue to foster good relations with the ANG. Other issues he touched on were the role and viability of UAVs and the necessity of the F-22 and JSF for the future.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

Gen Jumper

Said it was an honor and privilege to appear before the Committee as the nominee to be the 17th Chief of Staff of the Air Force. He expressed gratitude to President Bush for nominating him. Expressed his thanks to those who helped in his nomination process and told Committee members he looked forward to working with them. He highlighted major AF issues in the broad categories of transformation, readiness, retention, and recapitalization. Key transformation topics were: Total Force initiatives, space power, stealth, standoff, precision, and IT—readiness issues: flying hour program and spare parts – retention issues: quality of life, training, and leadership – recapitalization: aircraft age, falling behind technologically, and the need for the F-22.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS

Chairman Levin

Asked nominees if they would promise to submit Questions for the Record (QFR) in a timely manner. All agreed.

Sen Levin

Thanked the nominees and requested that their nominations be expedited as quickly as possible.

Q. Is it accurate to say that modernization has been put off until next year's budget request due to DoD's focus on personnel, readiness, and QoL programs?

A. Yes. I have not been close to the budgetary process in my job at ACC.

Q. If the budget request for next year stays about the same as this year, what impact would that have on your modernization plans?

A. Disconnects in the bomber force will continue. We use money that should go to repairing our bases to pay other bills. It will stall our ability to recapitalize ourselves.

Q. Do you believe the AF has excess infrastructure that uses up resources that could be better applied elsewhere?

A. I do.

Q. If the AF wants money to extend the B-52 out to 2040 (an average age of 80-90 years), first, how can we tell the pilots they are flying something that old and second, doesn't that continue to increase the average age of your aircraft?

A. First, we benefit today from the over-engineering of the 50-60s. We continue to put upgrades onto an excellent structure. Remember that B-52's primary role will be standoff and not in harm's way as much as the penetrating bombers.

Q. Are we putting a disproportionate level of resources into missile defense?

A. The trade-offs are very difficult but I would not want to preempt the SecDef's conclusions on what type of missile defense programs we need.

Sen Inhofe

Gave his support to Gen Jumper. Commented that it was important to protect America's surge capability in wartime via the ALCs. Many of the ALCs are WWII technology.

Q. What is your thought about the future of the depots?

A. I am committed to the concept of ALCs and our ability to surge. I plan on visiting the depots early in my tenure, if confirmed.

Q. There are four areas of encroachment: environmental, urban sprawl, spectrum, and live ranges. Problems like Vieques, where a bunch of lawbreaking renegades have kicked us off ranges that we own are not only USN and USMC problems, they are your problem too. How will you handle these issues?

A. The key to success is to stay engaged in each of these areas—they are creeping issues.

Follow-Up (Inhofe): And the better a job we do the worse the problem gets. Protecting woodpeckers so well that their habitat is expected to grow, taking up more training space.

Q. We have always had the best equipment – up to now. What are your thoughts about our relative advantages, especially Su-27 and Su-30 issues?

A. The F-22 will put us as far ahead as the F-15 put us over the MiG-21 twenty-five years ago.

Sen Nelson (NE)

Q. Congratulated General Jumper on his nomination. What is your opinion on the current Guard and Reserve programs like those at Offutt and the possibility of expanding the Guard missions?

A. The 55th is a model for us to use. Sec Roche is anxious to find new ways to take advantage of the skill and experience leaving the Active Duty. The AF is proud of our total force effort.

Follow-up (Nelson (NE)): It is important that we continue to upgrade the training of the Guardsmen so we don't end up with an inferior mix of forces.

Sen Cleland

Cleland applauded Gen Jumper's service to this country. Noted again, the importance of Gen Clark's book, *Waging Modern War*. It references the importance of PGMs.

Q. What is the current shortfall in WRM PGMs?

A. In the current budget we are trying to fix our training munitions shortfalls. We are behind in procurement and the expenditure of 5000 PGMs in Operation Allied Force and the daily expenditures in Northern and Southern Watch have complicated the problem. We will also have to look into how to train with expensive standoff weapons in the future.

Q. Do you plan on making the Montgomery GI Bill more family friendly?

A. We recruit the member but we retain the family. This is exactly the thing that helps us retain that family and keep that skilled member in uniform.

Sen Carnahan

Q. Will the B-2 be used strategically to close the access gap to central, east, and south Asia?

A. The B-2 performed better in OAF than anyone would have thought. We have invested \$3.7 billion over the FYDP in B-2 survivability, lethality, and supportability. Combined with the F-22, the pair can deal with most problems out there in the future.

Q. Sec Roche stated that the B-2 might need to be escorted by the F-22. In your GSTF when would the B-2 need such an escort?

A. The three elements of the B-2 and the GSTF are bringing the B-2 into the daytime; horizontal integration of manned, unmanned, and space ISR platforms, and the refined art of prediction rather than collection for "discovery" sake—getting decision quality data to the commanders.

Q. If the B-2 is going to be escorted by F-22s it will need enhanced communications. The 02 budget cut those upgrades from the B-2 can you explain the importance of those upgrades?

A. This remains on our top UPL to get back. We chose to fund the lethality portion first—incorporation of the new 500 lb PGMs (80 per A/C).

Sen Inhofe

You have used the term tough trade-offs 3 or 4 times. We don't want them to be that tough.

Q. Do you think we should get back up to 6 Red Flags vs 4 for readiness?

A. I do. We have to keep the training edge—it's absolutely precious to us.

Q. Pilots have said that this country has lost its sense of mission and that some of these deployments did not relate to their skills or ability. Are the SRBs/pilot bonuses working?

A. On the pilot side it's too early to tell. On the enlisted side we will meet our goal in first term retention (55.6%). The trend for second term enlistments is up also. We also expect to get back 1000 airmen back into the service who got out.

Q. What role will the JSF play in joint warfighting?

A. JSF brings persistent stealth to the battlefield to do Close Air Support and Time Critical Targeting that can't be done by bombers 300 miles away. This is important for all services. The alliance issue is tough because of classification of ISR assets.

Follow-up by Sen Inhofe: The target selection during Kosovo was by committee. Our allies need to understand that if you want us in, we've got to make these decisions.

Sen Levin

Q. The 1999 white paper on long-range bombers assumed that bombers will operate mainly from the US. Is this consistent with AF assumptions about the operating life of the bombers?

A. Most concepts call for forward basing in England and Diego Garcia to get greater sortie rates out of them. However, for strategic surprise, we can operate out of the US as we saw in OAF.

Q. Is the assumptions about the life of the bomber then assume those forward deployments?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you give us your views on space and the use of space in the future?

A. Our greatest leverage lies in space. We embrace the findings of the DoD space commission. My perspective on space as the COMACC has been on its impact on the battlefield. I see many benefits in that role of space ISR and systems like SBIRS. I am particularly aware of the emerging threat posed by the proliferation of space ISR like pictures that would take away our strategic surprise.

Q. Sen Warner's initiative to increase unmanned systems to 1/3 of our deep-strike aircraft by 2010 means that the DoD has to do a lot in the next 4 years. What is your reaction to that goal?

A. I embrace UAVs and UCAVs. I would like to see a marriage of UCAVs and directed energy weapons. I am not sure 1/3 is the right mix though. We would have to study all of the second order effects like lift, air refueling, infrastructure, etc that would be required to support this type of force before we can talk percentages. But I am committed to UAVs.

TASKINGS

- None
- Sen Levin adjourned the meetin at 1050.
- Sen Warner stated earlier that he would submit any questions for the record.